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Jury Indicts Man Linked to Escaped Spy

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A federal grand jury Tuesday indicted on weapons charges a man who investigators reportedly suspect helped convicted spy Christopher John Boyce escape from a California prison.

Frank Abbott Sweeney Jr., is suspected of having helped Boyce of Rancho Palos Verdes escape from a federal prison in Lompoc in January 1980. Federal officials have repeatedly refused to comment publicly on Sweeney's connection with Boyce, who remains at large.

U.S. Atty. William W. Robertson said Sweeney was indicated on four

counts of unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition by a convicted felon. He was convicted of assault and battery with intent to commit murder in New Jersey's Bergen County in December, 1967, Robertson said.

The indictment accused Sweeney of acquiring a .38-caliber revolver, a 9mm pistol, and a 50-round box of ammunition for each weapon between March and July.

Sweeney, 36, remains free on a \$250,000 personal recognizance bond. He faces a maximum sentence

of 20 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine if convicted on all counts.

He was arrested late last month at his Bergen County home.

Boyce had been serving a 40-year prison term for the theft of sensitive data on U.S. satellites and its sale to Soviet agents.

Boyce and Sweeney reportedly met while the two were serving time in a California federal prison. Sweeney was serving a three-year term for mail fraud at the time, officials said.